Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 to 38 (Canceled)

39. (Previously presented) A composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient and an antibacterial agent that specifically binds to an S-yneS polypeptide, wherein the antibacterial agent is identified as a candidate antibacterial agent by a method comprising:

(a) contacting an S-yneS polypepeptide with a test compound; and

(b) detecting binding of the test compound with the S-yneS polypeptide, wherein binding indicates that the test compound is a candidate antibacterial agent.

40. (Previously presented) A composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient and an antibacterial agent that specifically binds to an S-yneS polypeptide, wherein the antibacterial agent is identified by a method comprising:

(a) contacting an S-yneS polypeptide with a test compound;

(b) detecting binding of the test compound with the S-yneS polypeptide, wherein binding indicates that the test compound is a candidate to be an antibacterial agent; and

(c) determining whether the candidate antibacterial agent inhibits growth of bacteria, relative to growth of bacteria cultured in the absence of the candidate antibacterial agent that binds with the polypeptide, wherein inhibition of growth indicates that the candidate antibacterial agent is an antibacterial agent.

41. (New) The composition of claim 39, wherein the polypeptide is derived from a non-pathogenic *Streptococcus* strain.

42. (New) The composition of claim 39, wherein the polypeptide is derived from a pathogenic Streptococcus strain.

43. (New) The composition of claim 39, wherein the test compound is immobilized on a substrate, and binding of the test compound with the polypeptide is detected as immobilization of the polypeptide on the immobilized test compound.

44. (New) The composition of claim 39, wherein the test compound is selected from the group consisting of polypeptides, ribonucleic acids, small molecules, and deoxyribonucleic acids.

45. (New) The composition of claim 39, wherein:

the S-yneS polypeptide is provided as a fusion protein comprising the S-yneS polypeptide fused to (i) a transcription activation domain of a transcription factor or (ii) a DNA-binding domain of a transcription factor;

the test compound is a fusion protein comprising the polypeptide fused to (i) a transcription activation domain of a transcription factor or (ii) a DNA-binding domain of a transcription factor, to interact with the fusion protein; and

binding of the test compound with the polypeptide is detected as reconstitution of a transcription factor.

46. (New) The composition of claim 40, wherein the polypeptide is derived from a non-pathogenic Streptococcus strain.

47. (New) The composition of claim 40, wherein the polypeptide is derived from a pathogenic Streptococcus strain.

48. (New) The composition of claim 40, wherein the test compound is immobilized on a substrate, and binding of the test compound with the polypeptide is detected as immobilization of the polypeptide on the immobilized test compound.

49. (New) The composition of claim 40, wherein the test compound is selected from the group consisting of polypeptides, ribonucleic acids, small molecules, and deoxyribonucleic acids.

50. (New) The composition of claim 40, wherein:

the S-yneS polypeptide is provided as a fusion protein comprising the S-yneS polypeptide fused to (i) a transcription activation domain of a transcription factor or (ii) a DNA-binding domain of a transcription factor;

the test compound is a fusion protein comprising the polypeptide fused to (i) a transcription activation domain of a transcription factor or (ii) a DNA-binding domain of a transcription factor, to interact with the fusion protein; and

binding of the test compound with the polypeptide is detected as reconstitution of a transcription factor.